

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm at Highland City Hall. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Trent Carriger, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Koehnemann, and Widman, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 7 citizens.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper.

**PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Hemann read a document proclaiming the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. The proclamation was received by Kent Wiese and Martha Patterson, representing A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

David Todd, 12514 Silver Lake Road, expressed it frustrates him each year when he sees debris, trees, and cornstalks in the lake. He encouraged the council members, if they have not yet, to read the Highland Silver Lake Watershed Plan. He stated I know at least two councilmembers that were not on the council when it was approved by the council. As of November 2021, the lake was 7,322 cubic acres and was down to 5,578 cubic acres. In the plan, on Page 142, there was a 1-10-year plan and a 10-20-year plan. We are four years in now. The city maintains water lines, sewer lines, and electric. What are we doing for the lake? In 2021, it was estimated it would take \$21M to straighten the lake out. What is the long-term goal for the lake? Is there any plan other than to get grants? City Manager Conrad stated he would address this during Staff Reports.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan noted there was a lot going on Saturday. It was a really great day.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad reported the new Teupen manlift was delivered. Staff is receiving training on it this week. It will be set up outside before the next meeting for demonstration. It will expand our ability in clearing easements, as well as use for assisting other departments.

In response to Dave's inquiry, City Manager Conrad acknowledged there is an overall plan for the lake, which mostly focuses on north end. The last two years, we have focused on construction of catch basins. Last year, one was constructed on private property, with a catch area of 350 acres. This year, we

will be constructing an in-lake catch basin near where you live. We do a lot of the 319 grants, which are matching grants. Additionally, we do things within the budget, such as extending the application of rip rap along the shoreline. Once we feel we have addressed the intrusion, then we can address the existing sediment. The estimate was \$15M-\$18M for the dredging. The order of importance is to stop the problem, then we can repair the damage. So that has been our focus. Whether it is acquiring right of way or working with neighboring landowners, we are doing something each year. The inlays and catch basin will catch what we are constructing this year and it will catch just over 400 acres. I feel like we are taking a bite at it. Mayor Hemann added City Manager Conrad and I talk about this periodically. When we get to the dredging, it is going to take us lobbying for funding at the state and or federal levels. Councilman Napper suggested taking a portion of the grocery tax, invest it, and then using those funds later to fund dredging costs. City Manager Conrad pointed out we never have separated that tax out. We do put some of that tax towards the Parks & Recreation's budget. It covers a lot from public safety, general administration, to parks and recreation. Councilman Napper suggested taking a 1/16 of it, save and invest it, so we have it for future years. Specifically, dredging. City Manager Conrad stated we can take a look. Even doing it in sections, it is going to be a very expensive capital project. Councilwoman Bellm expressed, just as building it; it will be controversial, because of the cost. Some people think it is just fine, rather than to spend the money. City Manager Conrad pointed out that most people that go out on the lake, are on the south side of Interstate 70, which acts as a natural barrier. People on the south side of the interstate think it is just fine; however, on the north end, it is very shallow.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Bradley Scott to the Police Pension Board – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Bradley Scott to the Police Pension Board, for another two-year term, to expire May 9, 2028 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Jim Meridith, Diane Korte-Lindsey, Marcus Alvarado, Ben Eberwein and Marshall Rinderer to the Industrial Development Commission – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Jim Meridith, Diane Korte-Lindsey, Marcus Alvarado, Ben Eberwein and Marshall Rinderer to the Industrial Development Commission for one-year terms as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-63/RESOLUTION Authorizing City Manager to Terminate Lease of 187 Woodcrest Dr. With Frey Properties – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-63/RESOLUTION #26-05-3279 authorizing the city manager to terminate lease of 187 Woodcrest Drive with Frey Properties as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reported, just for council's information, by terminating this lease early, this will not be on the tax levy as a line item. Councilwoman Bellm inquired this is better known as? City Manager Conrad pointed out this is the Senior Citizens' Center. We will move that operation back to Weinheimer Building. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-64/RESOLUTION Approving Purchase Agreement Between Country Hills Water District and City of Highland For Purchase of Bulk Water Meter at Intersection of Michael Road and Veterans Honor Parkway – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-64/RESOLUTION #26-05-3280 approving Purchase Agreement between Country Hills Water District and City of Highland for purchase of bulk water meter at intersection of Michael Road and Veterans Honor Parkway as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad reported we provide water to a few districts. Country Hills Subdivision has their own water district. They actually owned the bulk meter.

When they fail, they tend to fail in favor of the buyer. With this agreement it transfers the purchase of the meter, that was recently rebuilt, and includes that purchase into this agreement. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-65/RESOLUTION Authorizing City Attorney's Office to Intervene in Case Before The Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-65/RESOLUTION #26-05-3281 authorizing City Attorney's Office to intervene in case before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-66/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Sole Source Purchase of a TRUGrid Reliability and Transformer Analytic Software Bundle From Tantalus for \$68,625.00 and Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-66/RESOLUTION #26-05-3282 authorizing the sole source purchase of a TRUGrid Reliability and Transformer Analytic Software Bundle from Tantalus for \$68,625.00 and waiving customary bidding procedures as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

Accepting Expenditures Report #1313 for April 18, 2026 through May 1, 2026 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1313 for April 18, 2026 through May 1, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Hemann stated he wanted to thank the city attorney's office, police department, and Madison County State's Attorney's Office for hosting a mock DUI trial with Highland Middle School students this last week. Trent reported their team did defense but did not win, as the Chief's Police Department and the States Attorney's Office had done their due diligence.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk